



## BIOGRAPHY Fred Easker

### BIRTHPLACE

Fred Easker was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1944.

### CHILDHOOD

Mr. Easker grew up in Cedar Rapids. As a child, he always “made stuff.” He did lots of drawing and made furniture out of orange crates. Playing on a farm, he found “junk” to use to make things. In high school, he was not interested in studying physics and begged for an art class instead.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

He began to study history but found it to be “just about battles.” He was more interested in art. He graduated from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree in Art Education. “It found me,” he says, or “I found a path to it.”

### POSITION

Mr. Easker is a full-time artist living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

### INSPIRATION/INFLUENCE

Fred Easker was inspired by a story of Grant Wood saying that you should find art where you are. You do not need to go to art centers in Europe. Mr. Easker says, “They say to writers, ‘write what you know.’ You can find the basis for art in your own environment.”

He also finds inspiration in 19th-Century landscape painters, especially the Hudson River School. Within that group of artists, he prefers the Luminists. He also mentions Frederic Church and John Frederick Kensett as inspirations for his work.

Mr. Easker began as a painter of life-sized figures. He took a sequence of classes in American art and had to drive some distance to class. As he drove through Iowa, he was inspired by what he saw, and decided to do a few landscapes. He has now been painting landscapes for fifteen years, and has had one of his paintings hang in a museum next to his favorite Wood painting, *Young Corn*.

He drives long distances, looking for sites to paint. He wants to find the aesthetic quality, and he also needs to “understand” the place or scene. “You have to find the beauty,” he says, and he feels he has to find what is personal to him.

### ART FORM

Oil paint on canvas

### WEB SITE

[www.easkerart.com](http://www.easkerart.com)

### ARTWORK DISPLAYED

- Bridge View Center, Ottumwa, Iowa
- Des Moines Art Center
- Cedar Rapids Museum of Art